
Ways & Means Committee

SB 6179

Brief Description: Concerning chemical dependency specialist services.

Sponsors: Senators Tom, Fairley and Prentice.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the requirements that Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) contract for chemical dependency services at each Division of Children and Families office.

Hearing Date: 4/25/09

Staff: Melissa Palmer (786-7388)

Background:

The Legislature enacted Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5763 (Chapter 504, Laws of 2005), creating the Omnibus Treatment of Mental and Substance Abuse Disorder Act of 2005. The legislation addressed multiple provisions in the mental health system, including service expansion and treatment gaps. One such provision requires the DSHS to contract for chemical dependency specialist services at each Division of Children and Families office.

The Department contracts with the Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) for chemical dependency professionals at their offices. The chemical dependency professionals conduct on-site chemical dependency screenings and assessments, facilitate progress reports to social workers, conduct in-service training of social workers and staff regarding substance abuse, and refer clients to treatment providers.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The requirement for DSHS to contract for chemical dependency services at each Division of Children and Families office is removed. The DSHS is still required to contract for these services; however, these services are no longer specified to be available at each office.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.